



Characteristics of Mustard Agent

Mustard agent, also known as HD, purified sulfur mustard or distilled mustard, has a five-percent sulfur impurity, less odor and greater blistering power than the original mustard agent that was used during World War I. Approximately 1,621 tons of HD are stored safely and securely at the Edgewood Area of the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

In its pure liquid state, mustard agent is colorless. However, when exposed to impurities, it becomes a pale yellow to brown oily substance. Mustard agent freezes at 58°F, is liquid at any

temperature above 58°F, boils (becomes a vapor with a garlic-like odor) at 419°F, and can remain active in the soil for at least three years.

Exposure to mustard agent causes inflammation of the eyes, nose, throat, trachea, bronchi and lung tissue, and blisters the skin. In amounts approaching the lethal dose, injury to bone marrow, lymph nodes and spleen may occur. Mustard agent is toxic, and the International Agency for Research on Cancer has deemed it a carcinogen (cancer-causing agent).

If you would like more information on how the mustard agent stockpile will be destroyed at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, read the fact sheet *Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility: Accelerated Disposal* or contact the staff at the Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (410) 676-6800, the ABCDF Public Affairs Specialist at (410) 436-5253 or Bechtel Aberdeen's Public Outreach Manager at (410) 436-9507. Also, you may visit our Web site at www.cma.army.mil.

For more information on mustard agent, contact the Edgewood Chemical Activity (ECA) Public Affairs Office at (410) 436-5368 or visit ECA's Web site at <http://eca.sbcom.army.mil>.



For more information,
contact the
Public Outreach and
Information Office of the
Chemical Materials
Agency (Provisional)
1(800) 488-0648 or
www.cma.army.mil

or visit the
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